

ADMINISTRATOR'S EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY/ CIVIL RIGHTS AWARDS PROGRAM

PURPOSE

To annually recognize employees for exemplary achievements in promoting Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Civil Rights (CR); and for their demonstrated commitment to workforce diversity through actions **that clearly exceed responsibilities of their positions or assignments** in ARS.

CATEGORY

This program recognizes **outstanding achievements** in the following two categories:

Category I - Supervisory/Managerial

- a) An individual employee officially designated as a non-SES supervisor or a manager, or
- b) a group of employees officially designated as supervisors or managers. SES supervisors or managers may be recognized as group members, but not receive monetary recognition.

Category II - Non-Supervisory/Non-Managerial

- a) An individual non-supervisory or non-managerial employee, *or*
- b) a group of non-supervisory or non-managerial employees.

NOTE: *Groups made up of both categories of employees will be considered in the category where the majority are represented, however, if the group's majority consists of supervisors and plays an advisory role, the group would be considered non-supervisory.*

ELIGIBILITY

Nominations may be made of any ARS employee, except Headquarters/Area Civil Rights employees. Individual and group nominations will be accepted. Nominees must have sustained performance at the *Fully Successful* level or above. The Human Resources Division will confirm. **NOTE:** SES employees may be recognized as group members but not receive monetary recognition.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations must demonstrate how an individual or group pro-actively excelled in promoting and/or supporting EEO and CR objectives and goals, and/or a commitment or awareness to workforce diversity within the past year. Nominations must fully describe the following:

1. The outstanding achievement, accomplishment or contribution that has enhanced EEO/CR.
2. The significance of the achievement, as well as the results, impact and/or outcome (i.e., savings, new policy, improvements, pro-active resolution/avoidance of complaints, etc.).
3. The scope and breadth of achievement. Who was impacted by the achievement, i.e., ARS, the Department, or other organizations or persons?
4. How the achievement was an outcome of outstanding leadership, skill, ability, or creativity.

The *following are examples of* possible achievements of *supervisors/managers*:

(Achievements in EEO/CR and workforce diversity may also be shown in other ways):

- a. Providing on-going career counseling and orientation; and/or motivating employees through direct encouragement and assistance in developing their full potential and/or maximizing or enhancing their skills.
- b. Enhancing career opportunities through training and development, job redesign, mentoring, and ensuring full consideration of eligible employees in recommending promotions, awards, and other forms of special recognition.
- c. Promotion and use of a variety of special employment programs, i.e., student employment programs (Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, 1890 Scholar Program, Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities, Student Career Experience Program, etc.); and recruiting at job fairs, etc., to further the agency's EEO/CR objectives.
- d. Outstanding voluntary contributions to elementary and/or high schools with predominately minority students; minority serving institutions of higher education, i.e., Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities, etc.; or minority and/or under-represented community organizations in the area of human/civil rights or services such as:
 - (1) Contribution of time and talent furthering ARS EEO/CR goals without monetary reimbursement during non-duty hours.

- (2) Activities directed toward the constructive solutions to problems affecting equal employment opportunity and civil rights.
- e. Successful promotion and oversight of the agency's Outreach programs, such as the Procurement Preference Program by actively assuring the assigned preference goals are pursued and met, and by supporting employees' or groups' active participation.

The ***following are examples of*** possible achievements of ***non-supervisors***: (Achievements in EEO/CR and workforce diversity may also be shown in other ways):

- a. Recognition by co-workers for commitment and efforts to further the efforts and spirit of EEO/CR showing how the action(s) impacted ARS.
- b. Participation with management in the creative development of and assistance in training programs to enhance the skills of minority and underutilized employees and to maintain effective working relationships with minority and under-represented community organizations whose programs support EEO/CR in the federal government.
- a. Providing outstanding leadership and full participation in activities that foster a better understanding of EEO/CR in the Federal government. For example: increasing partnerships and/or collaborations with minority educational institutions, organizations, and stakeholders; advance the agency's Outreach programs, such as the Procurement Preference Program by aggressively identifying firms for this program in terms of procurement activities; or participation on various Special Emphasis committees, such as the Black History Program, National Women's Program, Asian American/Pacific Islander Program, Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Program, National Hispanic Program, National Disability Employment Awareness Program, and American Indian Heritage Program.
- b. Outstanding voluntary contributions to elementary and/or high schools with predominately minority students; minority serving institutions of higher education, i.e., Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities, etc.; or minority and/or under-represented community organizations in the area of human/civil rights or services such as:
 - (1) Contribution of time and talent furthering EEO/CR goals without monetary reimbursement during non-duty hours.
 - (2) Activities directed toward the constructive solutions to problems affecting EEO/CR.

- e. Confirm with documented evidence that through individual or group efforts, significant accomplishments in reaching the agency's affirmative action goals were achieved and to provide counsel, guidance, and innovative ideas and approaches to enhance the agency's EEO/CR objectives beyond expectations of the assigned duties.
- f. Provide leadership in developing and implementing EEO/CR affirmative action programs within the agency.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

Any ARS employee may submit a nomination using the attached form. Justifications must clearly and concisely describe the selection criteria.

Nominations for these awards are to be sent to the respective Area (includes NAL) and Headquarters Staff Directors. Headquarters Staff Directors refer to the Directors of the Office of the Administrator, National Program Staff, Office of Technology Transfer, Budget and Program Management Staff, Information Staff, Civil Rights Staff, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Office of Scientific Quality Review, Special Research Programs, Office of International Research Programs, and Administrative and Financial Management. Each Area will be responsible for gathering and reviewing nominations, and selecting one individual or group nomination from each of the categories. Areas will make their selections and send their nominations to the Human Resources Division (HRD) by **May 16, 2003**.

Headquarters Staff Directors will be responsible for gathering and reviewing nominations and selecting one individual or group nomination from each of the categories and will send their nominations to the Headquarters Civil Rights Manager by **May 2, 2003**. The Headquarters Civil Rights Manager will panel the Headquarters nominations and send one Headquarters nomination from each category to HRD for consideration, by **May 16, 2003**.

All Area and Headquarters nominations must be received at the following address by **May 16, 2003**:

USDA/ARS/HRD
ATTN: Mary Oxner, Performance and Awards Staff
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, GWCC, Room 3-1180B
Beltsville, MD 20705-5107

A selection panel, which will include USDA Civil Rights Directors/Deputy Directors (or a designated representative) will be appointed to evaluate the nominations and rank nominees in the respective category. In determining the winners, the selection panel will focus on the significance, impact and outcome of the accomplishments and achievements of those nominated. The panel's recommendations will be forwarded to the ARS Administrator for final approval.

NATURE OF RECOGNITION

Each individual selected as the winner in each category will receive a \$4,500 cash award and a plaque at the Annual ARS Recognition Program in February 11, 2004. If a group is selected, the award amount will be determined by the Administrator. Non-Federal and SES persons are not eligible for cash awards, but may participate in the recognition event and receive an award plaque.

POINT OF CONTACT

Questions regarding this program may be directed to Mary Oxner (HRD) on (301) 504-1368 or Debra Vandergrift (CRS) on (202) 720-6161.

Administrator's Equal Employment Opportunity/Civil Rights Awards Nomination Form

AWARD CATEGORY (please mark "X" in appropriate box) ☐ Supervisory/Managerial ☐ Non-Supervisory/Non-Managerial

NOMINEE (please mark "X" in appropriate box) ☐ Individual ☐ Group

Please include the following information for each individual nomination and for each member of a group nomination. A list may be attached for group nominations. Display the exact name to be shown on the award.

NAME OF NOMINEE OR GROUP

TITLE

AREA/BRANCH/LOCATION

TELEPHONE (include area code)

FAX

E-MAIL

CITATION (not more than 25 words)

JUSTIFICATION (State the selection criteria for Category I and/or II. Document the facts relevant to the selection.) DO NOT ATTACH MORE THAN ONE ADDITIONAL SHEET.

NOMINATOR NAME (printed)

NOMINATOR TITLE

AREA/BRANCH/LOCATION

SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR

DATE

TELEPHONE (include area code)

FAX

E-MAIL

NAME OF AREA DIRECTOR (if not the nominator) - (printed)

SIGNATURE OF AREA DIRECTOR